

immediate action on finalizing long overdue rules on crew training. This rule would mandate additional training and evaluation of requirements, ensuring that those working aboard an aircraft are best equipped to handle potential emergency situations.

Mr. Speaker, the National Transportation Safety Board found that between 1988 and 2009 inadequate training was found to be a leading factor in 178 accidents. The crash of Flight 3407 was preventable. Each day that these rules go unfinished carries a potential risk to the flying public.

#### CONGRATULATING CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON, PRESIDENT MILDRED GARCIA

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate recently appointed President Mildred Garcia of the California State University system's Fullerton campus.

President Garcia currently serves on the Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics, and she was appointed to that by President Obama.

Previously serving as the 11th female president for California State University, Dominguez Hills, President Garcia became the first Latina president within the California State University system in 2007.

She began her career as an educator. She's still an educator, still teaching at Cal State, Fullerton, while having the presidency, also. She is a scholar. President Garcia focuses much of her research on fairness for higher education policy and practice, and she has authored many books on this subject.

I wish her great success in her new position and, again, congratulations, Millie.

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#### CONTINUING COSTS OF OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM IN AFGHANISTAN

(Mr. SCHRADER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCHRADER. I rise today to support our planning for a safe and responsible withdrawal from Afghanistan in the very, very near term. No one has forgotten why we went into Afghanistan: to rout out and bring justice to those who attacked us on September 11, 2001. With extraordinary bravery, our troops have accomplished the mission they were set out to do over 10 years ago. Osama bin Laden has been brought to justice and al Qaeda has been largely crushed. Our troops have done their job. Many of them—over 2,000 of them, in fact—have given their lives not only to defend our freedoms but those of Afghans as well.

After 10 years of war and reconstruction, it's time for Afghans to stand up for Afghanistan, and it's time for us to do our job and bring our troops home. We can continue to defend ourselves from terrorists without tens of thousands of troops fighting a ground war in Afghanistan. The \$88 billion we're talking about putting into Afghanistan in this Defense appropriations bill this week could build our own infrastructure and create jobs and economic opportunity right here at home. It is ludicrous to be spending such large sums rebuilding other countries when our own economic problems are so large and persistent. Our greatest leaders say our greatest threat is not a military one, but an economic one.

#### SEQUESTRATION TRANSPARENCY ACT

(Mr. WELCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, this afternoon the House is going to take up the Sequestration Transparency Act. It's harmless enough, but it doesn't do anything. What is it? A year ago, Mr. BOEHNER and Mr. MCCONNELL took this country to the brink of debt default. They demanded that we cut spending by \$1.2 trillion to offset the increase in the debt limit. Now, their plan was to have the supercommittee get the job done any way they wanted to balance the cuts and revenues. But if that failed, they had a backup. The backup was automatic cuts that would be half Pentagon and half discretionary.

Now the day arrives. January 1, 2013, those cuts go into effect, but they don't want the cuts to go into effect. So this legislation tells the Congressional Budget Office to look at the law we passed and tell us what did we do, why did we do it, what will happen if what we order to be done is allowed to be done. This is a "Comedy Central" joke. We have to have a balanced approach to a serious problem, but that means making decisions today about a balanced approach that includes revenues, includes the Pentagon, and includes domestic discretionary.

#### INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. I want to join my colleague, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, in acknowledging that this weekend we will begin the International AIDS Conference, which will come to America with a fitting theme: "Turning the Tide Together."

It has a long history. In 1990, expert scientists and political officials from across the globe gathered in San Francisco, in my district, for the International AIDS Conference to turn our promise of leadership into progress.

Since that time, however, the conference has never returned to an American venue for two decades. The organizers point to our longtime shameful travel ban on those with HIV/AIDS.

Next week, when the conference assembles right here in our Nation's Capitol, the world will see how far we've come. Together, we will commit to turning the tide, as the theme indicates, toward the next stage in our fight: fewer infections and a cure and an end to HIV/AIDS.

Consider what this Congress has done: funding the Ryan White CARE Act, creating housing opportunities for people with HIV, and expanding access to Medicaid for people with HIV, but not full-blown AIDS. That's an early intervention. Also, increased investments in research, care, treatment, and intervention by more than half a billion dollars.

And in response to the global challenge and the leadership of Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, we have supported global solutions by increasing funds for bilateral AIDS efforts during the Clinton administration; making the first American contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria in 2000; and working with Presidents Bush and Obama to establish PEPFAR. I know that it is a great source of pride to President George W. Bush for the leadership he provided, the support he gave, and the pride I think he takes in PEPFAR—and we salute him for that.

President Obama has continued that work, more than doubling the support for global health initiatives and doubling our investment in the Global Fund. These commitments and more have helped families in the United States and the villages of Africa and communities worldwide.

These actions have saved lives, but there's much more to do. With the International AIDS Conference coming to Washington, DC, we have an opportunity to recommit ourselves to the cause of a world without HIV/AIDS. That is the challenge. That is the goal. We can turn the tide together.

After 25 years in Congress, little surprises me anymore; but one thing that does is that after all this time we still do not have a cure. But we're hopeful. And when the AIDS conference opens its doors next week, we must stand united in our pledge to discover a cure and raise an AIDS-free generation. Science is making progress. We have a moral obligation to support that. It has been done in a bipartisan way under President Bush's leadership, under President Clinton, and under President Obama. Hopefully, we can continue to do that.

We can and we must work together to make HIV/AIDS a very, very sad memory and certainly not part of our future. I thank you, Congresswoman LEE, for your tremendous leadership locally and globally and in every way, and certainly in this Congress of the United States.